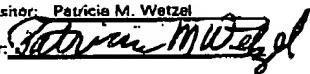


Attorney Docket No. LCB363

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Washington, D.C. 20231 on June 23, 2003

Printed Name of Depositor: Patricia M. Wetzel

Signature of Depositor: **IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Inventors: Lennart Axelsson)
)
Serial No.: 09/872,319) Examiner: Leon, Edwin A.
)
Filing Date: June 1, 2001) Group Art Unit: 2833
)
For: Improved Terminal Carrier)
)
 Cut-Off Design

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REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

REMARKS

This Reply is in response to the Office Action of April 23, 2003, wherein the Examiner rejected all pending claims 1 - 6 under §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sonoda (U.S. Patent No. 4,466,692), in view of Thillays (U.S. Patent No. 4,292,735).

The combination proposed by the Examiner, however, fails to teach the claimed invention and is not suggested by the prior art. Additionally, despite the Examiner's claim